



Natural Resources Conservation Service
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

January 07, 2009

PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN NO. PA360-9-5

SUBJECT: PER – Ecological Sciences and Planning Winter Training Opportunities.

Purpose. To encourage NRCS employees, partners, and Technical Service Providers to receive training to maintain their knowledge and skill in planning and implementing conservation management systems

Expiration Date. September 30, 2009

Several annually occurring events provide NRCS field employees, partners, Technical Service Providers, and other consultants the opportunity to acquire knowledge and competencies about planning and implementing conservation systems. Certified Conservation Planners can maintain their continuing education credit requirements in the no till/cover crop planning category by attending the preapproved Professional Crop Producers' Conference. This quarter there are also many opportunities for individuals to maintain their skills in implementing agronomic based practices like no till, cover crops, buffers, nutrient management, pest management, and forage harvest management. There are also opportunities to gain new knowledge about a diversity of farming operations including conventional, organic, and specialty cropping systems.

- **Tuesday and Thursday, January 13, 15, 22, 2009**
Southeast Regional Transition to No-Till School
Berks County Ag Center, Leesport PA. Registration \$30.00. For more information:
http://berks.extension.psu.edu/Agriculture/transitionto_no_til_school_1_09.pdf
- **Tuesday and Wednesday, January 20-21, 2009**
PAES PA Agronomic Education Conference
Formerly the PA Lime and Fertilizer Conference
Registration: 7:30 AM, Program 8:00 AM. Registration fee is \$185.00 for members and \$215.00 for non-members. Dues for membership are \$25.00 per person. Payment of the registration fee includes any handout materials, all sessions, breaks, and two lunches. For more information:
<http://paes.cas.psu.edu/Conference.html>
- **Tuesday – Thursday, January 27-29, 2009**
2009 Southeast Pennsylvania Crops Conferences
Locations – Allentown, Franconia, Reading (One day each). Registration: Before 1/20/09 - Daytime \$15.00, Evening \$8.00, after 1/20/09 Daytime \$20.00, Evening \$10.00. For more information: http://cmeg.psu.edu/pdf/se_crop_conference_2009.pdf



- Tuesday, January 27, 2009**
Tri-State Conservation Tillage Conference - West Middlesex Radisson (Rt. 18 at I-80) featuring Brazilian "Super" Farmer Franke Dijkstra & PA's own Permanent Cover Cropping systems farmer Steve Groff
Franke Dijkstra - Say "YES!" to No-till & Steve Groff - How & Why I use Cover Crops & No-till plus numerous other presentations, a farmer panel and a vendor show. Registration: 8:00 AM Program 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Pre-registration discount \$25, includes lunch, handouts; \$30 day-of-event. For more information: Ed Petrus, 724-662-3740, ext 101, or Edward.petrus@pa.usda.gov or www.panotill.com
- Wednesday, January 28, 2009**
Southwest Tillage Conference - Greensburg - Giannilli's II (Route 30) also featuring Brazilian "Super" Farmer Franke Dijkstra & PA's own Permanent Cover Cropping systems farmer Steve Groff
 Registration 9:00 AM. Pre-registration \$30, day of event \$40. For more information: Dan Griffith at 724-837-5271 ext 103 or Kevin Fry at 724-548-3447. www.panotill.com
- Friday, January 30, 2009**
Special No-till Seminar featuring Franke Dijkstra at Penn State University, ASI Building. For more information, contact Dr. Sjoerd Duiker at swd10@psu.edu
- February 3-5, 2009**
Mid Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA. The [Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention](http://www.mafvc.org/html/1,1128.Registration.00.html) has become the premier grower meeting in the Northeast combining three days of six or more concurrent [educational sessions](#) with a large industry [trade show](#) and numerous networking opportunities - all designed to enable fruit, vegetable and berry growers as well as direct marketers to stay on the cutting edge of their industries. **Pre-register by Jan 28.** <http://www.mafvc.org/html/1,1128.Registration.00.html>
- February 5-7, 2009**
PA Sustainable Agriculture's (PASA)'s 18th Annual Farming for the Future Conference, in State College, PA Featuring a Hands-On IPM & Bio-Controls pre-conference track along with several other day-long intensives on vegetable production, cover cropping techniques, and weed control. Regular registration rates apply for registrations postmarked before **January 16**, and pre-registration closes **Feb 1st**. <http://www.pasafarming.org/conf2009/>
- February 17-18, 2009**
Professional Crop Producers Meeting jointly sponsored by the PA No-Till Alliance, PA Corn Growers, PA Forage and Grassland Council and Soybean Producers at PennStater Conference Center. Contact Dr. Marvin Hall at mhh2@psu.edu or (815) 863-1019. **Register by January 16** to take advantage of the discounted registration fee. For more information and to register click here: Click here for event summary <http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S,P1,7289AB31-6482-45BB-BA4C-2C19523A51B1>

NRCS employees with identified training needs should request approval from their supervisor for attendance by using the mandatory SF-182 process in Aglearn and by notifying their ASTC. Upon approval, please send your completed registration form for the appropriate conference website to your Administrative Coordinator, no later than the registration dates listed on the appropriate website or form. All travel must be approved by the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. Employees approved for overnight travel must have their Area Coordinator prepare a travel authorization with “training attendance” as the purpose code. Employees approved for overnight lodging must make their own hotel reservations. All registration fees will be paid by the State Office so Administrative Coordinators should send registration forms for their area to reach Deb Eckley prior to the registration deadline.

These opportunities should also be promoted among Partners, Technical Service Providers and other consultants who may be assisting your field team to deliver technical assistance to the typical cropping operations in your service area.

/s/ CRAIG R. DERICKSON

CRAIG R. DERICKSON
State Conservationist
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